

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A) JAKARTA 11598; B) CANBERRA 6066 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (JOHN LAVETT, ASST SECRETARY, SOUTH EAST ASIA BRANCH) REVIEWED AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WITH EMBOFF SEPT 23.

2. RE PARA 7 OF REF A, AUSTRALIANS HAVE NOT YET HAD ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WITH PORTUGUESE ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. LAVETT COMMENTED THAT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, DR. CARLOS EMPIS WEMANS, SEEMS TO BE UNINFORMED ON PORTUGUESE POLICY AND IS CURRENTLY TELLING PEOPLE IN CANBERRA THAT PORTUGAL IS WILLING TO TURN OVER PORTUGUESE TIMOR TO INDONESIA BUT WANTS TO BE COMPENSATED FOR IT. NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL, FRANK B. COOPER, HAS JUST ARRIVED AT POST. (HE IS VERY ABLE OFFICER AND SHOULD IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN GOA AND GOP ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR).

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3. LAVATT SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN

AFFAIRS, SENATOR WILLESEE, IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE BILATERAL WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES IN NEW YORK AND WILL ALSO MEET WITH INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK. IN TURN, MALIK AND SOARES WILL BE MEETING IN NEW YORK. WE WILL ULTIMATELY GET A BETTER PICTURE OF HOW THESE THREE-WAY CONSULTATIONS WORKED OUT.

4. LAVETT EMPHASIZED TO EMBOFF CONCERN OF GOA THAT INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MISUNDERSTAND AUSTRALIAN PREPAREDNESS TO ACCEPT INTEGRATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. AUSTRALIANS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS OUTCOME AS BEST AVAILABLE IF PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WANT INTEGRATION. AUSTRALIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT GOI WILL SEEK TO ARRANGE FAKE "ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION" WHICH COULD HAVE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS. FUTURE AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS WITH GOP IN PORTUGAL WILL PRESUMABLY REFLECT THIS CONCERN

5. LAVETT SAID THAT PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF INTERTERRI-TORIAL COORDINATION SANTOS HAD STATED LAST WEEK THAT IF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WISHED TO REMAIN ASSOCIATED WITH PORTUGAL, GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION. GREEN

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